

5-1965

## Farm Outlook

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### Recommended Citation

Futrell, Gene (1965) "Farm Outlook," *Iowa Farm Science*: Vol. 19 : No. 11 , Article 7.  
Available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farmscience/vol19/iss11/7>

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The course seems to be very popular, also, with returning service men who have been out of touch with Iowa agriculture.

## Students' Future Plans . . .

Beginning in 1962, we asked each group about their current operations and plans. One question was "How do you plan to get started farming?" As indicated in table 1, 65 percent of the 583 students have started or will start in partnership with a relative, most commonly their father.

Another 18 percent plan to work either on or off the farm for wages. Eight percent thought they had enough money to start as independent operators, and nine percent are planning to take jobs closely related to agriculture but do not plan to farm. The answers to this question support the idea that a young man often needs parental help in order to start farming.

We also asked the men to describe their current operation. The average farm size for the current group is 429.7. Compare this to the current average farm size for Iowa

**TABLE 1. How Winter Quarter Program students, 1962-65, planned to start farming.**

How they have or will start	Percent
Have started in partnership with relative	30
Will start in partnership with relative	35
Will work on farm for wages	12
Will work off farm for wages	6
Started as independent operator	6
Will start as an independent operator	2
Other ways of starting	5
Will not farm	4
	100

of 203 acres. Most of the men are from a two-man partnership, but the young men appear to be going into potentially sound operations.

As could be expected in Iowa, the acreage of corn grown is the most uniform characteristic of the students' crop and livestock programs. This winter 145 students reported an average of 142 acres of corn grown.

The soybean acreage has been increasing significantly each year: In 1964, 101 students reported an average of 85 acres. For the past two years, 70 percent of the students have indicated that they use some kind of fertilization program in their cropping system.

Hog numbers have been on the increase. This year 118 students report an average of 360 hogs fed. Cattle feeding has varied. For the 159 students enrolled this year, 79 reported an average of 185 head.

## In Summary . . .

The Winter Quarter Program in general is designed to increase the participant's ability to farm better. It has served as a good introduction to college life for many and as a beginning of a degree for some. Most important, for many of the young farmers of Iowa, it has served as a solid foundation on which to build further.

# Farm Outlook...

## HOGS . . .

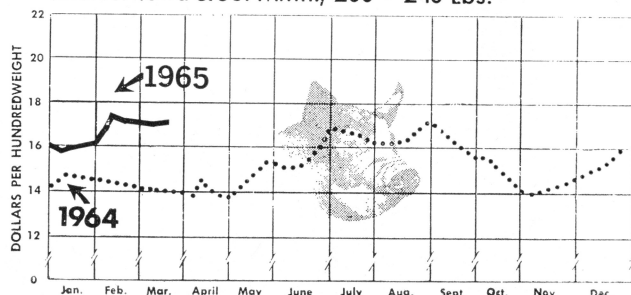
Iowa prices for slaughter hogs in early spring were around \$2.50 higher than a year earlier. The improvement resulted largely from smaller marketings. A stronger beef market than a year ago, plus some demand increase from population and income gains were additional factors.

Marketings this summer and fall are expected to continue below year earlier levels, on the basis of reported farrowings. And prices should remain well above 1964 marks.

First, here's a run-down on probable supplies. April-June marketings for slaughter will consist largely of pigs born in the September-November quarter of last year. In 10 Corn Belt states, which account for over three-fourths of the nation's pig crop, sow farrowings in these months totaled 2.1 million, down 7 percent from a year earlier.

Over half of the September-November farrowings occurred in September. So the lower level of farrowings in October and November provide the basis for a fairly sharp seasonal drop in volume beginning around mid-May.

Weekly Average Price of Barrows and Gilts, Interior Iowa & So. Minn., 200 - 240 Lbs.





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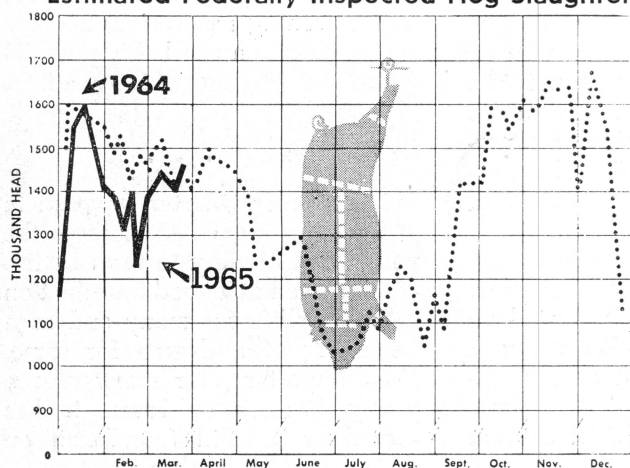
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### Estimated Federally Inspected Hog Slaughter



Summer marketings will come largely from December-February farrowings. Sow farrowings in these months in the 10 states totaled 1.6 million, 8 percent fewer than a year earlier. Seasonally, supplies will continue light into late summer, with volume on the rise by mid-September.

October-December marketings will be seasonally large, but should continue well below last year. On March 1, hog producers in the 10 states reported plans to farrow 3.2 million sows in the March-May quarter. This would be down 8 percent from the same period last year.

These farrowing estimates indicate hog slaughter during the rest of 1965 should be around 8 percent under year earlier levels. This assumes that national farrowing changes are comparable to those estimated for the 10 states.

Prices are expected to average \$1.75 to as much as \$2.50 above 1964 levels during the months ahead. In Iowa, this would mean \$16.75 to \$17.50 for U.S. 1-3's, 190-230 pound barrows and gilts during the late spring. July-September

prices averaging from \$18.50-\$19.00 appear likely, with top sales hitting the \$20 mark. Present supply prospects for the October-December quarter indicate Iowa prices of around \$16.00-\$16.50 at the low point this fall.

Hog producers in 10 Corn Belt states on March 1 reported intentions to cut June-August farrowings 8 percent from last year. If carried out, marketings next winter would continue well below previous year levels.

### CORN . . .

Cash corn prices in Iowa during recent months have been 7 to 10 cents per bushel above 1964. With 1964 production short of domestic and export needs, Commodity Credit Corporation sales have been an important factor in the market. CCC sales have been double the 1964 volume and additional sales are likely to help meet spring and summer needs.

Prices are likely to show further strength into summer, in contrast to last year when they trended down from a spring high. The volume of CCC sales will influence the strength that develops into summer. But prices to central Iowa farmers are likely to reach at least the \$1.20-\$1.23 area by midsummer.

— Gene Futrell

